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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

8 THE ESTATE OF CINDY LOU HILL, by No.
9 and through its personal representative,
10 Joseph A. Grube; and CYNTHIA
11 METSKER, individually,

12 Plaintiffs,

13 vs.

14 NAPHCARE, INC, an Alabama
15 corporation; HANNA GUBITZ,
16 individually; and SPOKANE COUNTY,
17 a political subdivision of the State of
Washington,

18 Defendants.

COMPLAINT

(JURY DEMAND)

19 Plaintiffs, by and through the undersigned counsel, allege as follows:

20 **I. INTRODUCTION**

21 1. All pretrial detainees, no matter their station in life, are entitled to
22 constitutionally adequate medical care when confined behind bars, as well as
23 medical care that complies with the accepted standards of care. This is an action

1 under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and Washington law arising from the events and
2 circumstances leading up to, surrounding, and causing the death of 55-year-old
3 Cindy Lou Hill in the Spokane County Jail.

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5 2. Cindy Hill entered the jail on August 21, 2018. For the next four days,
6 she was confined at the jail as a pretrial detainee. During her confinement, Ms. Hill
7 grew exceptionally sick. Although a jail nurse learned that Ms. Hill was too ill to
8 move, unable to stand, suffering from unbearable abdominal pain, curled up on the
9 floor in a fetal position, screaming in agony, too unwell to be evaluated, and in
10 such dire straits that another inmate literally had to drag her across the jail floor in
11 a blanket, the jail nurse failed to call a medical doctor or higher level provider,
12 failed to arrange for hospital transport, and failed to take other action to assist her.
13 Instead, pursuant to the usual customs, practices, and policies of the jail's contract
14 medical provider, Naphcare, Inc., and those of the Spokane County Jail, the nurse
15 directed that Ms. Hill moved to a different section of the jail to be placed under the
16 periodic "watch" of jail guards who had no training or expertise in monitoring,
17 evaluating, or caring for seriously ill inmates. Ms. Hill remained in that cell for
18 hours on end, with no medical care or evaluation of any kind or nature. And on the
19 evening of August 25, 2018, Ms. Hill died from the consequences of an acute
20 bacterial infection in her intestinal tract.
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1 loss of the society and companionship of her mother in violation of her rights
2 under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

3 **B. Corporate Defendant**

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5 6. Defendant Naphcare, Inc. (“Naphcare”) is a private, for-profit
6 correctional healthcare corporation, incorporated in Alabama and having a
7 principal street address at 2090 Columbiana Rd., Suite 4000, Birmingham,
8 Alabama 35216. Its registered agent for service of process is Ken Schneider, 2015
9 33rd St., Everett, WA 98201. At all material times, Naphcare was doing regular and
10 systematic business in Washington State.

11
12 7. Naphcare entered into a contract with Spokane County, through the
13 Spokane County Detention Services Department, spanning the period of Cindy
14 Hill’s confinement, and at all material times was acting in its capacity as a
15 contractor with Spokane County to provide healthcare services to inmates and
16 detainees at the Spokane County Jail, including Ms. Hill. By virtue of its county
17 contract and through its actual activities, Naphcare assumed the public function of
18 providing jail healthcare services to county inmates and detainees, acted under
19 color of state law, and was legally responsible to comply with all requirements of
20 the United States Constitution with regard to providing adequate medical care to
21 inmates and detainees. Naphcare is a “person” for purposes of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
22
23 Naphcare was responsible for hiring, training, and supervising nurses and other

1 healthcare professionals at the Spokane County Jail. It also was responsible for
2 adopting, implementing, and enforcing customs, policies, and practices pertaining
3 to medical care for Spokane County Jail inmates and detainees. Naphcare had a
4 duty to ensure that the medical care provided to those inmates and detainees,
5 including Ms. Hill, met the requirements of the United States Constitution and
6 other legal standards.
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8 8. Naphcare was, at all material times, a “health care provider” under
9 RCW 7.70.020(3) in that it was an entity employing persons licensed by the state
10 of Washington to provide health care services, including nurses and others as set
11 out in RCW 7.70.020(1).
12

13 **B. Individual Defendant**

14 9. Defendant Hanna Gubitza was, at all material times, a registered nurse
15 and an employee of Naphcare who was acting in the course and scope of her
16 Naphcare employment. At all material times, Defendant Gubitza was acting under
17 color of state law in providing healthcare to Spokane County inmates and
18 detainees. She had the duty to ensure that healthcare provided to inmates and
19 detainees at the jail, including Ms. Hill, met the requirements of the United States
20 Constitution and other legal standards. Defendant Gubitza is sued in her individual
21 capacity.
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1 10. Defendant Gubitz was, at all material times, a “health care provider”
2 under RCW 7.70.020(1) in that she was a registered nurse and licensed as such by
3 the State of Washington.
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5 **C. County Defendant**

6 11. Defendant Spokane County is a governmental entity and political
7 subdivision of the State of Washington. Through its Detention Services
8 Department, Spokane County operates the Spokane County Jail. The Spokane
9 County Jail is a correctional facility that houses and confines both pre-trial
10 detainees and convicted prisoners. All pre-trial detainees confined at the Spokane
11 County Jail are entitled to constitutional protections under the Fourteenth
12 Amendment to the United States Constitution, including, constitutionally adequate
13 medical care and humane conditions of confinement. Although Spokane County
14 sought to privatize the provision of healthcare services to Naphcare, it cannot
15 contract-away its constitutional obligations and is legally liable for the
16 constitutional violations committed by Naphcare as alleged herein and/or for its
17 own unconstitutional customs, policies and practices.
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20 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 12. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ civil
22 rights claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1983 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal
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1 question) and 28 U.S.C. § 1343 (civil rights). This Court also has supplemental
2 jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

3 13. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because
4 all of the events that support the Plaintiffs' allegations occurred in this judicial
5 district.
6

7 14. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the named Defendants
8 because all actions and omissions alleged in this complaint were committed by the
9 Defendants in the State of Washington and in this judicial district. Moreover, each
10 Defendant either resided in Washington, resides in Washington now, or did
11 systematic and continuous business in Washington.
12

13 **IV. SATISFACTION OF RCW 4.92 TORT CLAIMS NOTICE**

14 15. In compliance with RCW 4.96.020, the Estate submitted a tort claim
15 form to the Spokane County Department of Risk Management. More than 60 days
16 have passed since the submission of that claim, and all statutory prerequisites for
17 filing state law claims in this lawsuit against Spokane County have been met.
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19 **V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

20 16. On August 21, 2018, Cindy Hill was arrested by a City of Spokane
21 Police officer and charged with possession of a controlled substance. Following
22 her arrest, she was transported to the Spokane County Jail. She was booked into
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1 the jail shortly thereafter on that same day. For the balance of her life, she
2 remained confined in the jail as a pretrial detainee.

3 17. Ms. Hill was assigned to a general population cell in the jail. On
4 August 22nd, the day after her arrest and booking into the jail, Ms. Hill was seen by
5 a jail nurse in a holding cell. She told the nurse that she used heroin. As a result of
6 her heroin use and withdrawal symptoms she was experiencing or might begin to
7 experience, Ms. Hill was placed on a monitoring protocol called the Clinical
8 Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS). The purpose of the COWS scale was to assess
9 the stage and/or severity of opiate withdrawal by monitoring Ms. Hill on a regular
10 basis. In addition, the jail medical staff ordered the following medications for Ms.
11 Hill: Albuterol Sulfate (to be given four times per day), Aluminum-Magnesium
12 Simethicone (to be given twice per day), Ondansetron (to be given twice per day),
13 Ibuprofen (to be given twice per day), Loperamide (to be given twice per day) and
14 Dicyclomine (to be given twice per day). In addition, an electrolyte solution was
15 ordered (to be given three times per day).
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19 18. On August 23 and 24, Naphcare nurses periodically came to Ms.
20 Hill's cell to evaluate her for signs and symptoms of opiate withdrawal.
21 Sometimes, the Naphcare nurses performed the COWS assessment. At other times
22 they did not. When the nurses did perform the COWS assessments, Ms. Hill's
23 withdrawal symptoms were generally mild or moderate. Despite the medication

1 orders indicated above, Naphcare nurses failed to administer many of the ordered
2 doses. They never gave Ms. Hill Albuterol Sulfate. They never gave her Aluminum
3 Magnesium Simethicone. They only gave her Ondasetron once per day instead of
4 twice. They only gave her Ibuprofen once per day instead of twice. They gave her
5 no Loperamide on August 23 or 24. They only gave her Dicyclomine once. And
6 they only gave her the electrolyte solution twice.
7

8 19. By the morning of August 25, Ms. Hill had been in the jail for nearly
9 four full days. By this time, any signs or symptoms associated with heroin
10 withdrawal would have been decreasing, and any reasonable nurse would have
11 known that Ms. Hill had passed the peak period of heroin withdrawal.
12

13 20. Sometime before 9:30 a.m. on the morning of August 25th, Defendant
14 Gubitz went to Ms. Hill's cell. Upon arriving at Ms. Hill's cell, it was immediately
15 evident to Defendant Gubitz that Ms. Hill was suffering from a serious and
16 potentially life-threatening medical condition. When Defendant Gubitz arrived at
17 the cell, Ms. Hill was naked above the waist. She was lying on the floor of her cell.
18 She complained that she was too sick to move. As a result, Ms. Hill's cellmate was
19 forced to roll her onto a blanket and drag the blanket across the floor closer to
20 Defendant Gubitz. Ms. Hill lay on the floor screaming in pain. Her cellmate told
21 Defendant Gubitz that Ms. Hill had been suffering from severe abdominal pain and
22 might have a problem with her appendix. Ms. Hill was curled up into a fetal
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1 position on the floor. Due to the extent of her pain, Defendant Gubitiz could not
2 conduct an adequate assessment of her abdomen. When Defendant Gubitiz
3 attempted to touch her abdomen, Ms. Hill screamed louder in pain and stated that
4 the pain was most acute on her right lower abdomen. Ms. Hill repeatedly screamed
5 that she was sick. Ms. Hill was in such pain that no adequate medical assessment
6 could be done by Defendant Gubitiz.
7

8 21. Any reasonable registered nurse would have appreciated from the
9 foregoing information that Ms. Hill was suffering from a serious and potentially
10 life-threatening medical emergency and that Ms. Hill was at a high degree of risk
11 of death or serious complications without prompt medical care, evaluation, and
12 treatment by an appropriate provider. Particularly given that further diagnosis was
13 neither feasible nor within the scope of her licensure as a registered nurse,
14 Defendant Gubitiz should have taken steps to secure immediate medical care for
15 Ms. Hill from a higher level provider. The available options to her included
16 ordering Ms. Hill transported to the emergency department of the nearby hospital,
17 calling a physician or other higher level provider with the skill, experience and
18 knowledge to see and evaluate Ms. Hill, or, at a minimum, seeking the immediate
19 advice of medical doctor or other higher level provider. Indeed, Defendant
20 Gubitiz's role as a medical gatekeeper required that she take prompt and
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1 appropriate action to ensure that Ms. Hill received the evaluation and care that she
2 desperately needed.

3 22. Defendant Gubitz took none of the foregoing steps and took no other
4 action reasonably necessary to abate the risk to Ms. Hill.
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6 23. Instead, Defendant Gubitz, without seeking the advice or consultation
7 of a higher-level medical provider, decided to transfer Ms. Hill to a different
8 section of the jail. Ms. Hill was placed in a wheelchair and moved to cell 27—in a
9 section of the jail known as 2-West, which called the “medical housing unit.”
10

11 24. Despite its name, the “medical housing unit” is not adequate to
12 address the needs of inmate-patients suffering from acute or potentially life-
13 threatening medical conditions. The medical housing unit is not remotely
14 equivalent to a hospital or an infirmary, and it is insufficient to meet the needs of
15 inmates suffering from the kinds of symptoms from which Ms. Hill was suffering.
16 In essence, the medical housing unit is a section of the jail designed for the
17 convenience of the jail’s medical personnel when they have decided to monitor the
18 needs of inmates who have routine illnesses.
19

20 25. The Spokane County Jail was insufficiently equipped to handle,
21 anywhere in its facility, the needs of inmate-patients suffering from urgent,
22 emergent, acute or potentially life-threatening medical conditions.
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1 26. At 9:30 a.m. on August 25th, Defendant Gubitz placed Ms. Hill on a
2 30-minute “Medical Watch” in the so-called “medical housing unit.” The term
3 “medical watch,” as used by Naphcare and Spokane County at the Spokane County
4 Jail, is a misnomer. In practice “medical watch” at the Spokane County Jail did not
5 actually involve “medically watching” the inmates placed in the medical housing
6 unit. Rather, the usual practice, custom, and policy of Naphcare and Spokane
7 County was that inmates placed on “medical watch” would receive no regular
8 watch at all by medical professionals. Rather than being periodically watched or
9 evaluated by a nurse or other medical professional, inmates placed on “medical
10 watch” were instead only supposed to be looked at periodically by the jail’s
11 guards. These guards were not medically licensed or trained and lacked the
12 qualifications, schooling, skill or experience to evaluate inmates’ medical
13 conditions. The jail’s “medical watch” guards could not take vital signs, evaluate
14 symptoms, make medical diagnoses or evaluations, ask medically-oriented
15 questions or otherwise engage in any kind of actual medical evaluation. Especially
16 given her serious and acute symptoms, placing Ms. Hill on a 30-minute “medical
17 watch” was grossly inadequate and put her at substantial risk of serious harm.

21 27. Consistent with the usual customs, practices, policies, and procedures
22 of Naphcare and the Spokane County Jail, Ms. Hill remained in cell 27 for at least
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1 the next 6 and ½ hours with no medical visit, assessment, or evaluation by a
2 medical professional.

3 28. Late in the afternoon on August 25th, Defendant Gubitz finally went to
4 Ms. Hill's cell. Despite seeing her lying in the cell, Defendant Gubitz did not
5 medically assess or evaluate Ms. Hill. She did not take a single vital sign. She did
6 not ask her a single question of Ms. Hill or, if she did, she did not receive any
7 verbal response. She did not palpitate her abdomen, feel her skin, assess her pain
8 level, evaluate her level of consciousness, check her pupil size, determine whether
9 she was able to ambulate, or describe her physical appearance. Indeed, she did not
10 even enter Ms. Hill's cell or have Ms. Hill brought out of her cell. Although she
11 claimed in a chart note that Ms. Hill "refused assessment," this term was
12 commonly used by Naphcare *not* to indicate a conscious and informed refusal but,
13 rather, to indicate when an inmate does not get up and come to the door for
14 evaluation—often because they are too sick to do so. Following her non-
15 assessment, and despite knowing what she knew of Ms. Hill's condition from that
16 morning, Defendant Gubitz left Ms. Hill without taking any further action relative
17 to her care.
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21 29. At 5:24 p.m. on August 25th, having received no further medical
22 assessment, evaluation or care of any kind, an officer came to Ms. Hill's cell.
23 Noticing that she had not touched a meal that had been delivered to her cell earlier,

1 he knocked on the cell door and received no response. Shortly thereafter, officers
2 and another nurse entered the cell, found Ms. Hill to be unresponsive on the floor
3 and noticed a pool of blood and vomit. Outside aid was immediately summoned,
4 and responding medics attempted resuscitation efforts. However, these attempts
5 were unsuccessful. Ms. Hill was dead.
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7 30. Ms. Hill died from a bacterial infection of her gastrointestinal tract.
8 Her death was the foreseeable result of the negligence and deliberate indifference
9 alleged in this complaint.
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11 31. Defendant Gubitz acted with deliberate indifference to Ms. Hill's
12 serious medical needs. She made intentional decisions regarding Ms. Hill's care
13 that subjected her to a substantial risk of suffering serious harm and death. She
14 failed to take available measures to abate that risk, even though a reasonable
15 official in the circumstances would have appreciated the high degree of risk
16 involved (making the consequences of her conduct obvious), thereby causing Ms.
17 Hill's suffering and death and depriving Ms. Metsker of the society and
18 companionship of her mother.
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20 32. Defendant Gubitz acted with at least reckless disregard for Ms. Hill's
21 constitutional rights.
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23 33. Defendant Gubitz caused the continued suffering and death of Ms.
Hill by failing to follow the accepted standards of care.

1 34. Defendant Naphcare caused the continued suffering and death of Ms.
2 Hill by failing to follow the accepted standards of care.

3 35. Defendant Naphcare maintained constitutionally deficient policies,
4 practices, or customs that subjected jail inmates and detainees like Ms. Hill to a
5 substantial risk of serious harm and that were a moving force in causing the harms
6 alleged in this lawsuit. These included, but were not limited to: (1) a practice,
7 policy, or custom of having its nurses place acutely ill inmates on “medical watch,”
8 when, in fact, such inmates were only looked at periodically by jail’s guards who
9 lacked the qualifications, training, skill, licensure, schooling or experience to
10 evaluate inmates’ medical conditions; (2) deficient customs, practices, policies,
11 and procedures for recognizing and responding appropriately to jail inmates’ and
12 detainees’ urgent medical needs, including situations in which a confined person’s
13 illness was so severe that he or she needed to be transported to a hospital for higher
14 level care instead of remaining in the jail where higher level care was not feasible;
15 (3) a policy, practice, or custom of allowing jail inmates with serious health needs
16 to go untreated or to receive treatment that was so inadequate as to be
17 constitutionally infirm; and (4) a policy, practice or custom of failing to ensure that
18 nurses adequately fulfilled their gatekeeper roles by communicating inmates’ and
19 detainees’ acute medical needs to higher level providers and otherwise taking
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1 action to ensure that such individuals were adequately evaluated and treated by
2 medical professionals with the skill, training, experience, and licensure to do so.

3 36. Defendant Naphcare failed to adequately train and/or supervise its
4 personnel in providing constitutionally adequate care to jail inmates and detainees.
5 This includes inadequate training and supervision regarding (1) recognizing and
6 responding appropriately to jail inmates' and detainees' serious medical needs,
7 including situations in which a confined person's illness was so severe that he or
8 she needed to be transported to a hospital for higher level care instead of remaining
9 in the jail where higher level care was not feasible and where inmates and
10 detainees were therefore unfit to remain confined, (2) communicating with other
11 healthcare providers regarding serious inmate-patient needs, (3) communicating
12 with jail staff regarding serious inmate-patient needs and ensuring that inmates
13 with serious illnesses were evaluated and treated in a manner that would not cause
14 their condition to deteriorate, and (4) ensuring compliance with the duty to provide
15 inmates and detainees with constitutionally adequate healthcare.

16 37. The constitutional deficiencies outlined above have led to an alarming
17 number of deaths and poor outcomes in the Spokane County Jail since May
18 2016—when Naphcare was awarded the contract to provide jail healthcare
19 services. According to public investigative reporting, Cindy Hill was the *seventh*
20 inmate to die in the year 2018 alone. In the wake of her death, the Spokane County
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1 Human Rights Task Force chairman expressed concerns about what he
2 characterized as “an alarming trend of inmate deaths” at the Spokane County Jail.
3 He described the spate of deaths as a pattern that “should profoundly concern all of
4 us.”

5
6 38. Many of the deaths were preventable and resulted directly from
7 unconscionable delays in emergency medical care. For example, on June 13, 2018,
8 just over two months before Ms. Hill’s death, a 31-year-old inmate named Shane
9 Carson died after showing multiple signs of illness and medical distress, including
10 difficulty breathing, shaking, and profuse sweating. According to witnesses, Mr.
11 Carson was screaming for help in the hours before his death. Other inmates alerted
12 jail guards and medical staff, but their pleas for assistance went unheeded. Had Mr.
13 Carson been taken to the hospital, his life could have been saved.

14
15 39. Naphcare had a pattern of failing to secure medical care for inmates
16 with obviously serious medical conditions. In October 2016, for instance, a 25-year
17 old pretrial detainee named Bryan Monnin spent 40 days in the Spokane County
18 Jail, in excruciating pain from a badly broken arm. NaphCare staff knew about the
19 injury, which had been confirmed by hospital X-rays. They also knew that ER
20 doctors had prescribed the young man pain medication and referred him to an
21 orthopedic surgeon. Yet, despite his repeated pleas for help, NaphCare did not give
22 him his prescription medication and never took him for his surgery.
23

1 40. Naphcare’s failure to secure medical care for inmates with serious
2 medical needs was driven, in part, by constitutionally impermissible financial
3 considerations. In the Spokane County Jail, Naphcare is contractually obligated to
4 pay for inmates’ medications and off-site services, such as hospital visits and
5 ambulance runs, up to \$15,000 per inmate. The contract gives Naphcare broad
6 discretion to determine what is “medically necessary” for inmates. According to
7 former jail nurses, the company had a custom of putting profits over the medical
8 wellbeing of inmates—a practice that commonly caused inmates to languish and
9 suffer.
10

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12 41. Indeed, inmates often had to wait weeks after requesting medical care
13 for obvious medical problems. As the vice president of the Spokane county nurse’s
14 union put it, “You’d get a kite for a toothache; by the time you go to triage it, it’s a
15 full-blown abscess.”

16 42. Under NaphCare’s practices, any visits to an outside physician
17 requires approval from corporate headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama. Likewise,
18 the company requires that prescription orders and other treatment
19 recommendations must be approved by the Birmingham office. According to
20 former jail nurses, the company routinely made decisions that put the medical
21 wellbeing of inmates at substantial risk of serious harm. This includes rejecting
22 requests to transport inmates for outside medical care and rejecting requests for
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1 medication. The corporate office also had a practice of replacing inmate
2 medication with less expensive alternatives—even when the cheaper drug was not
3 in the patient’s best interest.

4
5 43. Staffing shortages have also been a persistent problem in the Spokane
6 County Jail. In fact, staffing shortages led to several of the constitutionally
7 deficient practices outlined above. This is one of the reasons why the jail fails to
8 take inmates to the hospital, even when they are suffering from life-threatening
9 medical needs. When an inmate is taken to the hospital, it requires a guard to be
10 posted by the inmate’s room. If the jail has staffing shortages, it cannot afford to
11 lose the manpower it would lose if an inmate is hospitalized. Well documented
12 nursing shortages have similarly caused predictable harm to many inmates in the
13 years and months leading up to Ms. Hill’s confinement and played a substantial
14 role in her suffering and death.

15
16 44. All acts and omissions of Naphcare were done under color of state law
17 and committed with at least reckless disregard for Ms. Hill’s rights under the
18 Fourteenth Amendment. Naphcare’s acts and omissions caused Ms. Hill to suffer
19 significant pre-death pain and suffering during her confinement, caused her death,
20 and deprived the individual Plaintiff, Cynthia Metsker, of the loss of her mother’s
21 society and companionship.
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1 Metsker suffered the loss of her mother's society and companionship, in violation
2 of her own Fourteenth Amendment rights.

3 40. As a result of the conduct alleged in this complaint, Defendants
4 Naphcare and Spokane County are liable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for violating
5 Plaintiffs' rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States
6 Constitution by maintaining unconstitutional policies, practices, and customs that
7 resulted in the denial of Ms. Hill's constitutional right to adequate medical care
8 and treatment and subjected her to inhumane conditions of confinement. As a
9 direct and proximate result of these Defendants' unconstitutional acts and
10 omissions, Ms. Hill suffered extreme physical pain, severe mental and emotional
11 anguish, and of the loss of her life. These claims, actionable through Ms. Hill's
12 estate, are asserted on her behalf by and through the Estate's personal
13 representative. In addition, as a direct and proximate result of these Defendants'
14 unconstitutional acts and omissions, Plaintiff Cynthia Metsker suffered the loss of
15 her mother's society and companionship, in violation of her own Fourteenth
16 Amendment rights.

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20 **State Law Claims: RCW 7.70 et seq. and Negligence**

21 41. As a result of the conduct alleged in this complaint, Defendants Gubitza
22 and Naphcare are liable under RCW 7.70 et seq. for proximately causing suffering
23 and death to Ms. Hill by failing to follow the accepted standards of care. As a

1 direct and proximate result of these Defendants' failures to follow the accepted
2 standards of care, Ms. Hill suffered extreme physical pain, severe mental and
3 emotional anguish, and the loss of her life. These claims, actionable through Ms.
4 Hill's estate, are asserted on her behalf by and through the Estate's personal
5 representative for the benefit of her beneficiary, Cynthia Metsker, under
6 Washington's wrongful death and survival statutes, RCW 4.20.010-20, RCW
7 4.20.046 and RCW 4.20.060.
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9 42. As a result of the conduct alleged in this complaint, Defendant
10 Spokane County is liable in negligence for proximately causing suffering and death
11 to Ms. Hill. As a direct and proximate result of Spokane County's negligence, Ms.
12 Hill suffered extreme physical pain, severe mental and emotional anguish, and the
13 loss of her life. These claims, actionable through Ms. Hill's estate, are asserted on
14 her behalf by and through the Estate's personal representative for the benefit of her
15 beneficiary, Cynthia Metsker, under Washington's wrongful death and survival
16 statutes, RCW 4.20.010-20, RCW 4.20.046 and RCW 4.20.060.
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18 VI. JURY DEMAND

19 43. Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury.
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21 VII. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

22 Plaintiffs ask the Court to order the following relief:
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1 A. All compensatory damages authorized by law to the Estate of Cindy
2 Hill, including but not limited to all available damages for Ms. Hill's mental,
3 physical, and emotional pain and suffering leading up to her death and the loss of
4 the value and enjoyment of her life;

5
6 B. All compensatory damages authorized by federal law to Ms. Hill's
7 daughter, Cynthia Metsker, for the loss of her mother's society and companionship
8 and all damages authorized to her under state law, as actionable the Personal
9 Representative of the Estate of Cindy Lou Hill, pursuant to Washington's wrongful
10 death and survival statutes;

11
12 C. Punitive damages against Defendants Gubitiz and Naphcare;

13 D. Attorneys' fees and litigation costs under 42 U.S.C. § 1988; and

14 E. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

15 DATED this 4th day of November, 2020.

16
17 **BUDGE & HEIPT, PLLC**

18 /s/ Edwin S. Budge

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